following table gives the comparative position of revenue receipts during the first 6 months of the current year as compared to the corresponding period last year.

| | During April — September | | Percentage of B.E. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1998 | 1999 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 |
| Tax Revenue | Rs. 42,411 crore | Rs. 47,427 crore | 36.3% | 35.8% |
| Non-Tax Revenue | Rs. 16,671 crore | Rs. 21,036 crore | 36.9% | 41.7% |

(c) The collection of revenue receipts is an ongoing process and due efforts are on for meeting the budget target.

**Plan for Downsizing Government**

166. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the President's Address to Parliament made on 25th October, 99 the need for downsizing the Government and reducing the Government expenditure as a part of second generation of economic reform was stressed;

(b) if so, whether Government have since formulated any plan in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when necessary steps in this regard would be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) In his address to the Parliament made on 25th October, 1999, the President of India mentioned, *inter-alia,* that an Expenditure Commission, which would be set up shortly will also lay down the road map for downsizing of Government. Any action in this behalf will, therefor, be taken as and when recommendations of the Commission are made.

(c) The need for containing non-plan administrative expenditure has been a continuous process and appropriate measures are taken from time to time in this regard. Guidelines on expenditure

management-fiscal prudence and austerity measures, were recently issued in August, 1999, outlining various austerity measures relating to ban on creation of posts, ban on filling up of vacant posts and implementation of the existing instructions regarding reduction of posts.

**VRS During Second Generation Reforms**

167. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan for VRS will be the inthing during the Second Generation Reforms; and

(b) the details of Government bodies/institutions where Government propose to go for VRS in future after PSU banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) As regards the policy on voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) in public sector banks, Regulation 29 of the bank (Employees') Pesnion Regulations, 1995 provides for grant of pensionary benefits to those who voluntarily retire from bank's service on or after 1st November, 1993 after completing 20 years of qualifying service. Government is yet to frame a new VRS for them. However, views of Chief Executives of public sector banks have been sought on the desirability of introducing a Scheme which is in operation in public sector undertakings, with or without modifications.

**Additional Courts for disposing off pending cases**

†168. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating any plan to set up additional courts and appoint additional judges to dispose off cases pending for a long time in all the major courts in the country; and

(b) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) The

†Original notice of the Question received in Hindi.